

September, 1999

Cancer Genetics Study News



PROSTATE CANCER GENETICS STUDY NEWS

Epidemiology Division achieves important accomplishments in cancer genetic research and prevention

Inside This Issue: Profile Results

Current Participation	2
Cancer by Ethnicity	3
Cancer by Age	3
Family History of Cancer	3

The UCI Epidemiology Division has made some important accomplishments during the past year.

The National Cancer Institute has selected the UCI Epidemiology Division as one of eight centers in their newly established interdisciplinary **Cancer Genetics Network**. The center will provide the infrastructure for research investigations of the genetics basis of human cancer susceptibility and identify means to address support of public health issues associated with human cancer genetics.

The NCI has also des-



ignated UCI's Epidemiology Division as the headquarters of the **Cancer Genetics Network Informatics Center**, which will support the cooperation of the Cancer Genetics Network. The Informatics Center is

also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of an information management system that supports the network-wide research protocols. The Informatics Center is also responsible for developing information and resources within the large, cancer genetic community.

The **Hereditary Prostate Cancer Genetics Study** has received additional funding through the CGN. These funds will help maintain and follow

(Continued on page 4)

Special points of interest:

- Thank you to all of our Cancer Genetic Study participants!
- Read all about the current accomplishments of the UCI Epidemiology Division in our cover story!
- Examine the new UCI Informatics Center web site at <http://www.infosystems.epi.uci.edu>.

Message from Dr. Anton-Culver



Dear Participants:

Thank you for your support and participation in this study. We feel very fortunate to have obtained funding to continue this research. We were also awarded two additional grants to study prostate cancer gene-environment interactions and prevention in clinical trials. These awards have given us the opportunity to expand our efforts in genetic and environmental prostate cancer research.

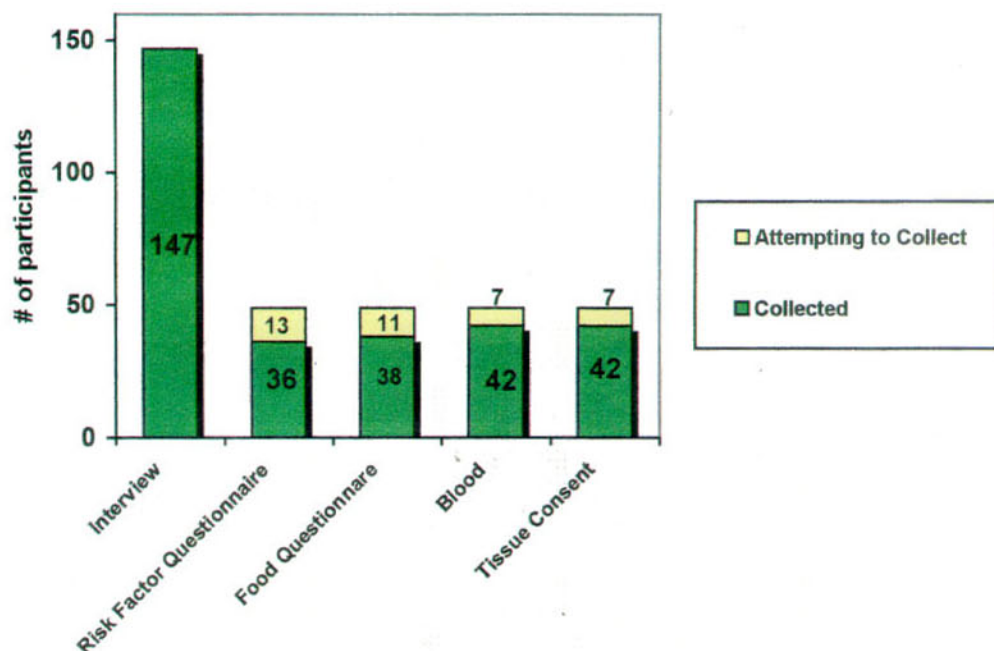
Thank you for being part of this exciting period of progress in the study of this disease.

Gene-Environment Studies at UCI – Our Strategy

We at the Epidemiology Division at UC Irvine feel very fortunate to be part of a very exciting time in cancer research. Your contribution to our research is vital to that effort. Together we hope to further our understanding of the causes of cancer and the experiences that a person with cancer undertakes. From this knowledge, we may develop more effective interventions, treatments, and preventive strategies.

Previous studies have made great strides in furthering scientific knowledge of the causes, development, and experience of cancer. Some studies focus on factors in the diet, in the home or work environment, or in the genetic make-up of a person and examine their relationship to cancer development. We wish to take this research one step further and analyze how these factors interact with each other to affect cancer risk. To accomplish this, we need to collect data and samples from many participants. Read on for a report of our progress.

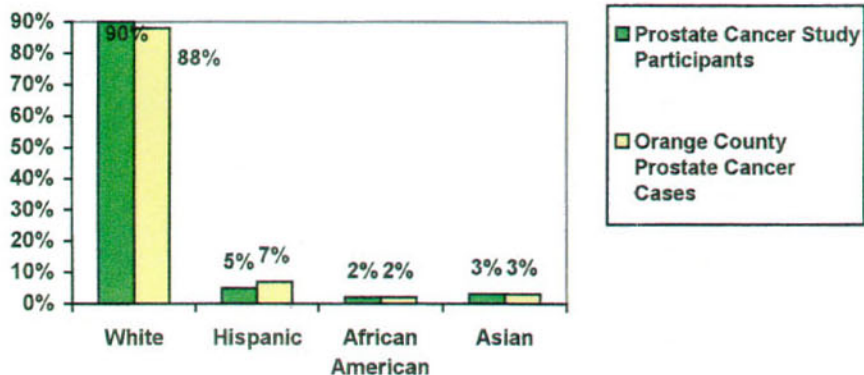
Current Participation Completion Status for the Prostate Cancer Participants



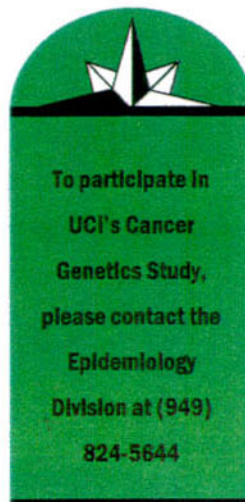
All 147 participants have been interviewed. Additional information has almost been completely collected on 49 of the participants who are either familial, special cases, or under the age of fifty.

In order to further our prostate cancer research we will be attempting to collect additional information on some of the prostate cancer participants.

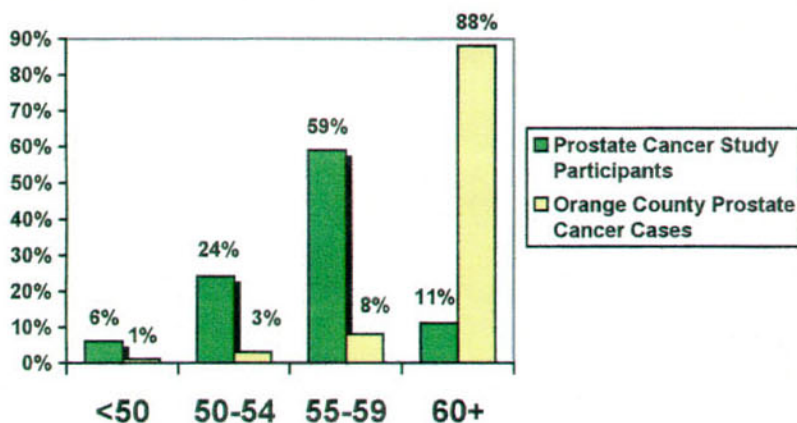
Percentages of the Total Number of Prostate Cancer Cases and Study Participants by Ethnicity



In Orange County approximately 1,452 people are diagnosed with prostate cancer every year. As depicted in the chart above the race distribution for the 147 prostate cancer participants is similar to that of the prostate cancer cases in Orange County.

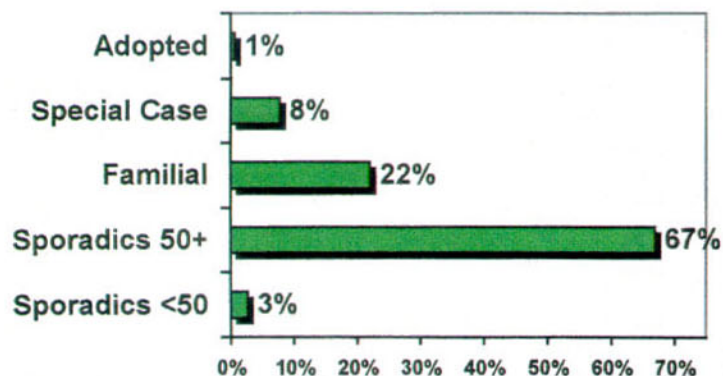


Percentages of the Total Number of Prostate Cancer Cases and Study Participants by Age



Our research goal involves looking at genes that may be related to prostate cancer. Because younger age groups are at higher risk for hereditary forms of prostate cancer our focus has been on a younger population. We are, however, targeting an older population as well.

Family History of Prostate Cancer Participants



Approximately 22% of the participants have at least one first or second degree relative with prostate cancer. Approximately 70% of the prostate cancer participants have no first or second degree relatives with prostate cancer. The remaining 9% are either adopted or special cases.



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Epidemiology Division Achievements Continued . . .

(Continued from page 1)

the existing 147 prostate cancer families. This additional funding will allow continued data collection on the existing families and further recruitment of additional families.

The study will focus on identifying genetic factors related to the incidence of prostate cancer in families. Once these genetic factors have been identified, their relationship to other risk factors in the diet or environment can be examined.

In addition to the current study, the UCI Epidemiology Division has been

awarded two additional research grants to study prostate cancer. The **CGN Prostate Pilot Study** will concentrate on prostate cancer gene discovery and the relationship between genes and environmental risk factors in the cause of prostate cancer.

The Gene - Environment Study of Familial Prostate Cancer is a five year study that involves three different levels of research. The first level will explore the association between different risk factors and the development of prostate cancer in families. Eligible

individuals will be selected from level one to participate in levels two and three. The second and third levels of the study are clinical trials testing the effectiveness of two different medications in preventing prostate cancer.

These new prostate cancer studies highlight the importance of integrating diverse areas of research. The UCI Division of Epidemiology is proud to lead the way in that integration.